It is the difference between the 13.5 million jobs that would be supported by $285 billion and the nearly 18 million jobs that would be supported by $375 billion.

To fill the gap between the funding the Federal Government is willing to provide and the funding that is needed, we have created so-called ''innovative'' financing mechanisms, such as garvee bonds.

These mechanisms enable states to issue increasing amounts of debt to try to meet the transportation needs that Federal funding is no longer meeting.

As the title of an insightful report issued this year by the Brookings Institution describes it, these are simply short-sighted and unsustainable means of building ''Today's Roads with Tomorrow's Dollars.''

The Federal Highway Administration reports that at the end of 2003, States had more than $77 billion in total highway related debt outstanding.

As with our growing national debt, States' reliance on debt only shifts the burden of paying for our present transportation infrastructure needs on to future generations.

We are going to confront a time in the not-too-distant future when States will have a back-log of construction projects that cannot be built because states are still paying for the roads they built 15 years ago.

There is an old saying: even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. The transportation reauthorization bill has now been passed by both the House and the Senate. Our immediate task must be to provide a measure of relief to our States by passing a conference report as soon as possible.

As we approach the end of our sixth extension to TEA–21, we must remember that the more we delay, the less we are able to relieve the burden of debt States are incurring to fund transportation.

REMARKS FOR H.R. 540

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 540. This bill would authorize the Equus Beds Aquifer recharge project in my district that will help meet the water needs of nearly 500,000 people in Kansas. This is an environmentally beneficial plan that will help ensure the City of Wichita, surrounding smaller communities, agriculture irrigators and local industry will have a clean and plentiful water supply for decades to come.

I want to thank Chairman POMBO for his leadership in working with me on this important project. Seeking federal authorization for the recharge of the Equus Beds Aquifer is something I have worked on for many years, and I am grateful to the Chairman and his staff for including language contained in my original bill into H.R. 540.

I also want to thank City of Wichita officials for their efforts in helping this project move forward. Their vision to ensure our community's water needs are met both now and in the future is extremely important. Leadership from Mayor Carlos Mayans along with City Council members Carl Brewer, Sue Schlapp, Jim Skelton, Paul Gray, Bob Martz and Sharon Fearey will continue to be needed for this project to be a success.

Wichita Water and Sewer Director David Warren and Water Supply Projects Administrator Gerald Blain have been especially helpful to me and my staff over the years in navigating the details of the recharge project. I appreciate their dedication to public service.

Nearly half a million people depend on the Equus Beds Aquifer and Cheney Reservoir to meet their water needs. Without water from the Equus Beds, Wichita and surrounding communities would face a serious water shortage.

The Equus Beds Aquifer is the body of water beneath portions of Sedgwick, Harvey, McPherson and Reno counties within the boundaries of Groundwater Management District Number 2. The aquifer lies under 900,000 acres, and annual withdrawals from the aquifer average 157,000 acre feet. Approximately 55 percent of the water is used for irrigation; 39 percent is used for municipal needs in Wichita, Halstead, Newton, Hutchinson, McPherson and Valley Center; and six percent is used by local industry.

The Equus Beds Aquifer recharge project involves taking floodwater from the Little Arkansas River and depositing that excess water into the aquifer through water supply wells after going through a filtration system.

Since the 1950's, water levels in the aquifer have dropped 40 feet because water rights and pumpage exceed the aquifer's natural recharge rate of six inches per year. Due to this over usage, saltwater from the southwest and oilfield brine from the northwest are threatening the aquifer. When the aquifer levels were higher, the elevated levels created a natural barrier that kept the contamination at bay. Now that the water levels have dropped, the natural barrier is no longer there. If the aquifer is not replenished, the maximum chloride levels will eventually exceed what is permitted for both agricultural and municipal usage.

This aquifer recharge project is a win-win project for all the communities who depend on its water. The City of Wichita and surrounding municipalities benefit because water can be safely stored to meet short-term and long-term water supply needs.

Agriculture irrigators also benefit because the risk of saltwater contamination is reduced. Without the natural barrier of an elevated water level in the aquifer, the water would eventually become contaminated to the point where it would be unsuitable for use even on crops. Irrigators should also see reduced costs associated with pumping since the water level will rise.

The Little Arkansas River and its ecosystem also benefit. During times of drought, a natural discharge from the Equus Beds Aquifer into the river will occur creating a more stable base flow.

Under the language contained in H.R. 540, the City of Wichita will be required to maintain and operate the recharge project, which ensures the federal government will not bear costs associated with its ongoing operation costs.

Recharging the Equus Beds is the most cost-efficient means to provide water for the greater Wichita area. And it is the best option available to keep salt and oilfield brine out of this critical water supply without greatly restricting water usage.

In 2004, Gerald Bain with the City of Wichita testified before the House Committee on Resources on the need for federal authorization of the recharge project. I am including his testimony with my remarks because I think it tells of the water needs faced by our community and the many benefits that will come with a recharge of the Equus Beds.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting for H.R. 540. This is a good bill that will greatly benefit the people in south-central Kansas.

The 2004 testimony by Gerald T. Blain, P.E.:

The City of Wichita, Kansas has had water supply wells in the Equus Beds Aquifer for over 60 years, and the aquifer has been a major source of the City's drinking water. However, because of excess pumping from the aquifer by municipal and agricultural users, water levels in the aquifer had declined up to 40 feet from their pre-development levels by 1992. Because of this over development, the Equus Beds aquifer is threatened by saltwater contamination from two sources. One source is natural saltwater from the Arkansas River located along the southwest border of the City's wellfield. The other source is oilfield brine contamination left over from the development of oil wells in the Burrton area in the 1930's, located northwest of the wellfield.

Groundwater modeling by the Bureau of Reclamation indicates that the chloride levels, which are an indicator of salinity, could exceed 300 mg/l in much of the wellfield by the year 2050. This would be above the 250 mg/l standard for drinking water. In order to protect the water quality of the area, steps must be taken to retard the movement of the salt-water plumes.

In 1993 the City of Wichita began implementation of a unique Integrated Local Water Supply Plan that is intended to meet the City's water supply needs through the year 2050. By the year 2050 it is projected that the City's water supply needs will almost double what they are now. The City's Plan uses a variety of local water resources to meet water needs, rather than requiring the City to transfer water from a remote reservoir in Northeast Kansas. A key component of the Plan includes an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project to recharge the City's existing wellfield in the Equus Beds Aquifer.

The excess pumping from the aquifer, and the resulting water level decline, has created a storage volume of almost 65 billion gallons that can be used to store water. The basic concept of the City's ASR project is to capture water from the Little Arkansas River and use it to recharge the aquifer. Computer modeling, and past experience at other sites throughout the country, has found that by recharging the aquifer a hydraulic barrier can be created that would retard the movement of the salt-water plumes. In addition, the 65 billion gallons that could be stored in the dewatered portion of the aquifer could be used as a component of the City's water supply.

Unfortunately, all of the ''conventional'' water rights in the Little Arkansas River have already been allocated. However, excess flows in the river, which occur only after it rains or snows, have not been allocated. Computer modeling has predicted that there are enough days of excess flow that enough water can be captured to allow the aquifer to be recharged and become a valuable component of

the City's water supply. The modeling predicts that if the City builds an ASR system with the capacity to capture up to 100 million gallons per day, that it would still capture only a fraction of the water flowing down the river, and it would not have a negative impact on the river.

The City intends to capture water from the river using two techniques, either by using ''bank storage'' wells or by pumping directly from the river. ''Bank Storage'' wells take advantage of a unique geological condition that occurs along the river. As the river rises above the base flow, water is temporarily stored in the river's banks, but as the flow in the river declines, the water in the banks discharges back into the river. The City intends to drill wells adjacent to the river that will capture ''bank storage'' water and induce river water to replace the water pumped.

The City recognized that some of the concepts included in the proposed ASR project have not been done before, so to prove the feasibility of those concepts the City completed a 5-year Demonstration Project. During the Demonstration Project, which was done in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Geological Survey, the City constructed a full-scale well adjacent to the Little Arkansas River, a river intake and a water treatment plant, and a variety of recharge facilities. To prove that the recharge project was safe, over 4,000 water samples were collected and analyzed for up to 400 different potential contaminates. During the Demonstration Project over one billion gallons of water were successfully recharged into the aquifer, and the City was able to prove that excess flows in the Little Arkansas River could be captured and recharged, and that it can be done without harming the aquifer.

The full-scale ASR project, which will be constructed in phases, will capture and recharge up to 100 million gallons per day, and will cost approximately $137 million. All of the water that will be recharged into the aquifer must meet drinking water standards, and will be monitored and regulated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Normally, when surface water is developed for a water resource, it requires the construction of a reservoir. A reservoir that would provide the same storage as this ASR project would probably consume around 25,000 to 30,000 acres of prime farmland. It is projected that the ASR project will use less than 400 acres of farmland.

The City of Wichita and others believe that the ASR project is a Win-Win project, because it appears that all of the stakeholders receive benefits from the projects. As a result of this project:

The City develops a water supply source that will allow it to meet its water supply needs through the year 2050.

The water quality of the wellfield is protected from salt-water contamination.

There is no requirement to curtail irrigation to restore water levels and protect water quality.

Irrigators will have lower pumping costs because water levels will be higher.

Low flows in the Little Arkansas River will improve, because additional water will ''leak'' from the Equus Beds back into the river.

The project uses less land than any other surface water development project.

The City has already implemented some components of the Integrated Local Water Supply Plan, including implementation of a water rate structure designed to reduce water consumption, and a greater emphasis on using water from Cheney Reservoir, and a corresponding reduction in water pumped from the Equus Beds. That alteration in water use has already allowed water levels in the Equus Beds to rise over 20 feet in some areas.

Phase I of the ASR Project, which is currently being designed, will have the capacity to capture and recharge up to 10 million gallons per day of water from the Little Arkansas River by using Bank Storage wells. The location of the first recharge facilities is intended to begin the formation of a hydraulic barrier to the movement of salt-water plume from the Burrton area. It will take almost 10 years to construct the entire full-scale project.

The City believes that this project represents a new approach to developing water resources, while at the same time protecting an existing water resource from contamination. The City of Wichita therefore urges support for federal assistance for this unique project.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSWOMAN MARCY KAPTUR OF OHIO'S NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, for her many lifetime achievements as a Representative from Ohio's Ninth Congressional District.

KAPTUR was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1982. She struggled forcefully to gain a seat on the prestigious Appropriations Committee. As the senior Democratic woman on the Appropriations committee she has always been a fighter for Ohio's farmers—protecting one of the state's most important resources.

She is also the first Democratic woman to serve on the House Defense Appropriations Committee. Congresswoman KAPTUR has had the opportunity to work on many committees while in Congress, including Budget; Banking Finance and Urban Affairs; and Veterans Affairs. Her array of experience on many different committees and subcommittees has allowed her to pursue her keen interests in economic growth, seniors issues, the environment and the economy.

KAPTUR's accomplishments include introducing legislation for Washington, D.C.'s World War II Memorial. Although it was a 17-year process, her hard work finally paid off in the spring of 2004 with the opening of the new memorial. The World War II Memorial honors the more than 400,000 people who died in the war as well as the 16 million people who served in the armed forces. KAPTUR's dedication to seeing this memorial built shows her commitment to all veterans. Because of her work on the memorial, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selected her as the first woman in history to receive the organization's Americanism Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to serve in the House of Representatives with Congresswoman KAPTUR. She is an inspiration to the people of Northwest Ohio who are lucky to have her as their representative for more than 20 years. Please join with me today to honor the many achievements of my friend and colleague Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR—the longest serving Democratic woman currently in Congress—a woman with a dedicated mission to her constituents.

RECOGNIZING LINDA CLARK AS ''ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR''

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Linda Clark. Ms. Clark, Denton School District's ''Elementary Teacher of the Year,'' has dedicated 26 years to educating and enlightening elementary school students, helping them to be successful not only in the classroom but also in the community.

Ms. Linda Clark was one of 22 teachers in the district nominated for ''Teacher of the Year.'' She helped establish the prestigious Writing Happens program, a curriculum which educates students in the basic structures of different writing structure and techniques. Additionally, Ms. Clark enrolled her students in a program that allows them to talk to the astronauts on the International Space Station. With such innovative programs, Ms. Clark has allowed her students to establish mentorship relationships with role models and has extended the classroom experience beyond its normal boundaries. Linda Clark's distinctive teaching style allows her students to experience a unique, hands-on approach in the classroom.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize a woman who has inspired and motivated so many of our youth. The contribution of Linda Clark and her unique teaching style should serve as inspiration to others in her field and those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTRAL OHIO SINGERS ASSOCIATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Central Ohio Singers' 36th Song Festival, to be held this year at the World View Community Church, and later at the German Central Foundation in Olmsted Township, Ohio.

Since 1803, when Ohio was officially instated into the union, groups of German singers have journeyed throughout the State, offering melodies that connect the new world with the old, and preserving culture and history of their German homeland along the way.

Organizations such as the World View Community Church and the Donauschwaben German American Cultural Center serve a vital role in promoting and preserving German traditions for each new American generation.